

Lisa M Coe RN BSN  
16 Pleasant View Street  
Jewett City, CT 06351  
(860)376-6392

February 28, 2011

My name is Lisa Coe and I have the unique opportunity to address members of the Appropriations Committee as an instructor at Quinebaug Valley Community College, and also as the Director of Nursing Services at Villa Maria Nursing and Rehabilitation Community in Plainfield.

Over the past ten years I have had the distinct honor of teaching at QVCC as the primary instructor for the Nursing Assistant Training Program. During my time at the college I have watched our program grow from a very small part of the Center for Community and Professional Learning, to where it is today as a program that graduates 120 to 150 new nursing assistants each year.

The value of this program in the Northeast Corner is immeasurable and I can speak to this personally as I am also the Director of Nursing Services for an SNF in what is considered a medically underserved part of the state. In my early years at Villa Maria it was often difficult to find qualified nursing assistants to provide care for our elderly clients, and turnover was always problematic. Fast-forward to today, my facility currently employs 45 nursing assistants, and of those employees, 37 of them are from my C.N.A. program at QVCC. When I speak to other nursing homes in the Northeast Corner I find that their facilities are staffed similarly, with a large representation of nursing assistants from our program.

It is also important to mention that because we are a rural community for the most part, job opportunities in the Northeast are not as plentiful for those seeking to gain employment. Having non-credit programs like the one that I teach often helps to get people into the workforce after a long period of unemployment. In a program like mine, for a modest outlay of money and time, the new nursing assistant can expect to gain employment with average starting salaries in the range of 13-15 dollars an hour. For many, this may be